Integrated Forest Protection Scheme (IFPS)

†*69. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the prescribed norms for providing grants to various States under Integrated Forest Protection Scheme (IFPS);

(b) whether it is a fact that the grant is not provided to various States on the basis of their forest areas;

(c) whether it is being considered to allocate grant on the basis of forest area under Integrated Forest Protection Scheme (IFPS); and

(d) if so, by when this process is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Integrated Forest Protection Scheme (IFPS) was initiated during Tenth Plan. This scheme provides financial assistance on sharing basis for protection of existing forests. The financial assistance is made available for strengthening of infrastructure, preparation of working plans and other protection related measures.

The allocation of funds to States is determined by various factors such as demand projected by States, past performance in terms of utilization of funds, availability of funds etc. The grant is not given on the basis of the forest areas of different States.

(c) and (d) There is no such proposal.

Resolution of Kashmir problem

*70. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has received a proposal from the President of Pakistan, seeking resolution of the so-called "Kashmir problem" and affirmed to the media subsequently to be open to "new ideas" to resolve the "Kashmir issue";

(b) if so, the details of the "Kashmir problem" perceived, if any; by the Pakistani President in his proposal and/or that of the "Kashmir issue" as hinted to the media by the Indian Prime Minister;

(c) whether it is a fact that discussions/negotiations are being conducted at the official level between the two countries;

(d) if so, the objective thereof; and

(e) the road-map to achieve the same?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) In media interactions, the President of Pakistan General Pervez Musharraf has made proposal on Jammu and Kashmir suggesting free movement of people back and forth, demilitarisation, self-government and joint management.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The issue of Jammu and Kashmir is being discussed between India and Pakistan within the framework of the Composite Dialogue. Our consistent position in these talks has been that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India. There can be no redrawing of borders and the settlement of the issue of Jammu and Kashmir can be achieved through dialogue. Any re-deployment of security forces within the country is a sovereign decision of the Government of India based on its own assessment of the prevailing security situation. Jammu and Kashmir already enjoys autonomy under the Indian Constitution and has in place a democratically elected Government.

India is committed to resolving all outstanding issues with Pakistan bilaterally and peacefully in accordance with the Simla Agreement. The Government intend to continue with the present process of confidence building, cooperation and dialogue in an atmosphere free from terror and violence.

Indians in foreign jails

*71. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian citizens and service personnel who are in the jails of our neighbouring countries;

(b) whether it is a fact that a lot of innocent people including fishermen, are jailed in those countries; and

(c) whether Government have initiated any steps to get them released?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) A Statement of Indian prisoners in jails in neighbouring countries is enclosed. (*See* below)

As mentioned in the enclosed statement, out of a total of 2012 Indian prisoners in jails in neighbouring countries, 396 and 13 fishermen are in prisons in Pakistan and Sri Lanka respectively.

The Government of India, through its Missions and Posts abroad and through bilateral meetings with officials of the concerned countries, make all possible efforts to get Indian nationals in foreign jails released quickly and to provide necessary assistance which includes requesting speedy trials, seeking remission of sentence, seeking consular access to the detainees and prisoners, providing advice/guidance in legal and other matters, interacting with their families in India, ensuring fair and humane treatment in foreign jails and facilitating repatriation to India on their release.

Statement

Prisoners in Jails of Neighbouring Countries

Sl. No.	Name of the country	No. of prisoners
1	2	3
1.	Bangladesh	854
2.	Bhutan	30